

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV GH

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT BRONG-AHAFO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

1. GHANA PRESS MAY 30 ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM ARMY AND A S
BRONG-AHAFO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER (GOVERNOR) OF COLONEL VICTOR
COKER-APPIAH. WHEN COKER-APPIAH WAS COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR
WORKS AND HOUSING UNDER PRESENT REGIME, HE WAS REGARDED AS
THE BIGGEST GRAFTER IN THE GHANAIAI GOVERNMENT. MOST LIKELY
STORY CIRCULATING ABOUT REASON HIS RETIREMENT PRESENT POSITION
IS THAT COKER-APPIAH RAN AFOUL OF REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER
ENGAGED IN ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS BY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN
RELEASE OF A SMUGGLER ARRESTED BY MILITARY. IMPLICATION IS
THAT SMUGGLER WAS COKER-APPIAH'S AGENT, WHICH ENTIRELY CREDIBLE
GIBEN ALLEGATIONS OF WIDESPREAD AND COMPLICITY GHANAIAI OFFICIALDOM
IN LUCRATIVE SMUGGLING BUSINESS. COKER-APPIAH'S RETIREMENT
PLANS UNKNOWN.

2. REPLACEMENT COMMISSIONER FOR BRONG-AHAFO REGION IS
UNKNOWN AIR FORCE LTCOL OBED KWABENA ABREFA. BORN FEBRUARY 1,
1941, AT AGOGO IN ASHANTI-AKIM DISTRICT, ABREFA IS PRESUMABLY
AKIM TRIBESMAN. MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT (1970-75) AS STAFF
ADVISER AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS (SENIOR AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT
OFFICER). ABREFA HAS DONE RAF EQUIPMENT COURSE AND RAF JUNIOR
COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL IN UK, AS WELL AS DIPLOMA COUSE IN
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

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